

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1 (previously presented). A method of billing a fee for a service via an electronic route, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a telephone number of a chargeable service telecommunication connection associated with a service provider to a service buyer;

b) monitoring the build-up of the telecommunication connection between the provider and the buyer by a line provider;

c) billing the fee for the requested service via the service connection; and

d) releasing the requested service to the buyer by the service provider,

whereby an order code is allocated and transmitted to the service buyer during transmission of the telephone service number by the service provider, and wherein the service connection is a direct-dial connection of which the final number is used as the order code.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the requested service is billed after the order code has been confirmed by the service buyer.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

6 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~service line is interrupted~~ service connection is disconnected by the service provider following the complete billing of the fee for the requested service.

7 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein billing is terminated if the service line is disconnected ~~interrupted~~ before complete billing of the fee for the requested service.

8 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein billing is carried out continuously in parallel with transmission of the service.

9 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the line to the service connection is built-up automatically on the side of the buyer.

10 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the requested service is built-up via the Internet.